

# DOLL TALK

FOR . . . .  
COLLECTORS

Volume 13, Number 2

Sept.-Oct., 1959

## From Our Friendly Philippino Allies

Just five years ago this summer, we were delighted to be able to offer a new Kimport line of extremely attractive Philippino dolls, directly imported from our one-time colony. A combination of favorable rate of exchange and special tariff laws allowed us to offer them at low bargain prices but to our sorrow, after about a year, a change in official

Philippine currency exchange and a revision of the customs statute caused the price to soar clear out of our reach. Regretfully, we discontinued these fine slim and straight island representatives. Now the scale has tilted again, once more in our favor, so that, at least temporarily, we are proud to be able to offer you handsome Emilio and his alluring Balintawak sweetheart, Inday.

The central provinces of Luzon are peopled by a largely Christianized Malayan race called Tagalogs. Culturally and politically

they are not only the leading people of their own country, but are more deeply westernized than any other people in southeastern Asia. Still, in many instances, they cling to their ancient customs and costumes with traces of Spanish and Mohammedan conquerors also still visible. Nine inch Emilio, for example, wears a cool and loose blouse of "jusi" or pineapple fiber, cotton and silk. His trousers of "kundiman" are belted underneath this "camisa de chino" with additional touches of color added by a bright neckerchief tied around his throat, and red velvet sandals. For protection from the tropical sun he has a wide brimmed sombrero woven of "buri" leaf fiber. With

typical Philippino love of music and dancing, Emilio is strumming on his treasured guitar. No. 465, \$5.95. Inday is a country maid, properly dressed for her serenading sweetheart in a festive costume of



a gored cotton print skirt topped by a light "babarahin" blouse with stiff net elbow length sleeves. A "tapis" or waistcloth of contrasting material is hung around the skirt, with matching "alampay" thrown over one shoulder. Her headdress is that picturesque "salakot," or sun hat, made of finely woven bamboo and gaily tasseled. On her shoulder, she carries an earthen jar for water from the village spring. No. 465A, \$5.95.

Demure Lila makes a radiant bride, her creamy complexion contrasting beautifully with the pure white bridal gown. Hundreds of years of Spanish domination left their mark on the islands and many devout native Catholics attest to the energy and zeal of the missionary orders. Even in such an elaborate church ceremony, however, the all "jusi" white wedding dress retains its native style. Her skirt is voluminously full-flared and topped with a short blouse with stiff, wide butterfly sleeves and a folded scarf of the same material. Elaborate jewelry, tiny flower bouquet and illusion veil complete the bridal ensemble.

All three of these representative dolls are finely crafted with attractive, modeled and painted features, clean workmanship and round, hardwood bases. All are in shelf size, nine inch dimension, and authentically imported from the Philippines by Kimport.

## WHY DOLLS ARE SMART

Of course, dollies accompany their young mammas to kindergarten; in the grades they also get taken on share days or when some foreign land is the subject.

and sis has a really truly Eskimo, Chinese or whatever. We've sometimes admitted that sweaters may take popularity preference over outgrown dolls with lots of collectors during the eager busy days of Hi—But Kimport Dolls have gone to college as dorm decor and, well here's a modest but heartening paragraph chapter from Mrs. Charles W. Miller of Texas:—

"Each year for several years, I have had the clothing class from our college here, Mary Hardin-Baylor, in my home to see my dolls and to lecture on my authentically costumed dolls. But this year I allowed them to keep them in a case in their building and they assure me they have received much attention from all groups at the college as well as visitors."

# INTERPRETING ANTIQUITY

In the Jan. (1959) National Geographic, is a fascinating report by Dr. E. Wyllis Andrews about recent findings in northern Yucatan. There, in clearing jungles and in excavations the remains of a large Mayan city is divulging its ancient amazing secrets.

**Doll Talk**, ever mindful of keeping to that pledge of subject matter, will only quote one paragraph:—"Excavation of one jungle-tangled pyramid at one end of the causeway proves it to be a major archeological find. Beneath the rubble is an entire temple, intentionally and carefully buried by the Maya. It has been called the Temple of the Seven Dolls after seven small clay figurines found buried beneath the floor. Oddly enough, the dolls were all malformed, which suggests their possible use by priests as devices for curing disease."

**CIRCLE NOW COMPLETE**

When Alaska was admitted as the 49th State, California friends of Hawaii dramatized their fervent desire to see the Islands also admitted, by a doll display furnished by members of the San Francisco doll club. Space was arranged at Sutro's Museum by Mrs. V. W. Clark, museum chairman. A large double circle of 49 of the state flags was in the background, with Hawaii's place still blank. An Hawaiian doll seems to be weeping while handsome Uncle Sam, with his protecting hand on Eskie of Alaska, stands ready to place the new state flags as soon as Congress passes the act. Of course dolls can help sell Patriotism!

Kimport has long supplied state dolls, trying always to have each one made in its own state and portraying the character, occupation or history of Americans from Alabama to Wyoming.

**HOLZ-MASSE**

Quite a mystery has been made over dolls marked "Holz-Masse." Could it be as simple as the English translation of the words—"wood pulp?"

**DO YOU KNOW?**

Archeologists have found dolls of mud, stones or pieces of wood in the dwellings of cave men. These would often be by the side of the little bones that had once been a child.

**NEVER ENOUGH NAMES**

Doll Talk goes to thousands of regular subscribers, but we realize there are hosts of collectors whom we have never contacted.

That's why we always appreciate names sent us by our customers and gladly send sample copies and special information in an effort to interest them. Miss Velma Dickson of Illinois, a long time Kimport friend, recently had a fine doll interview in the Chicago Tribune, and wrote:—"I have already had a letter from a lady asking for the name of the company where I got the Queen Elizabeth and Philip. I have sent her the information." Thanks.

The article shows a becoming picture of Miss Dickson with the books of her teaching profession back of her and four historic portrait dolls on display. The reporter was especially intrigued with the variety of dolls—short, thin, fat and tall; as different as people; and why not? Dolls mirror the world of history, costume and nationality. This one collection reflects fifteen years of careful collecting and combines as she says, her major interests in travel, art and dolls.

**BROWNVILLE PAPER DOLLS**

The widely known Nebraska artist, Terence R. Duren, created a delightful series of paper dolls based upon the early history of Brownville. These were in the spirit of the twice-yearly festivals, sponsored by the Brownville Historical Society, commemorating the romantic past of the century-old Nebraska river town.

Mr. Duren titled these paper dolls: "Brownville Belle," "Beau," "Bonny," and "Benny," and they are a perfect mirror for the glamourous styles of that day. It's another notable addition to the delightful array of paper dolls that has engaged the enthusiasm of many collectors.

**DOLLS FROM DIXIE**

Doll artistry is truly international in scope as Kimport can readily attest from the vast variety of types we have been able to bring to our friends over the years. Certainly, though, no region abroad or in the U.S. is more richly endowed with talented doll craftsmen and artists than the southern states with their history of fine handcrafts. This opinion was recently confirmed on a combination business-pleasure jaunt, by the senior McKims, south of the Mason-Dixon line. Not only did they reaffirm old friendships and form new ones, but, more to the point of this story, came home with some wonderful new dolls as well.

New Orleans is a must on any Gulf Coast tour, with its mouth watering creole cooking and then that historic French Quarter or Vieux Carre! Here the Vargas family have been making their distinctive wax, Negro character dolls for generations, samples of which are in several of the local museums. We were delighted to obtain a few to offer in **Doll Talk**, but supply is limited, so please rush your order. These solid wax figures with round beady eyes are about seven inches tall, including a wooden base. Even the fabrics used in their costumes are wax coated. Three styles are available; No. 38 is the Chimney Sweep, wearing oversized black top hat and jacket. He carries lowering ropes and brass hooked bundles of rushes. No. 38A is the Praline Woman with linen lined basket of fresh sugar and pecan candy on her arm. Both priced \$7.95 each. No. 38B is a dual group of daughter and child, the woman cotton picker with a



big yellow hamper of snowy cotton and a cute little pickaninny seated on top. Price, \$9.95.

As you travel east along the Gulf of Mexico, several villages are encountered that might well pass for Mediterranean fishing ports. Peopled principally by people of Greek extraction, they are centers for the unique trade of sponge diving, first developed in Greece many centuries ago. In one such town near St. Petersburg, the McKims met a charming and industrious doll maker, Mrs. Anna Canatselos, and were intrigued

with her unusual luffa sponge dolls. Although she admits that she can sell more dolls locally than she can make, she did consent to do an exclusive in limited quantity for Kimport. No. 184, a cunning 6½" Lady Preacher made of brown tinted luffa, with cotton print dress, gray hair, steel spectacles and even a tiny Bible. A delight for odd material or Americana collectors, just \$3.95.



No winter vacation in the south would be complete without the dazzling white sand beaches of Florida, and to doll lovers, the Sunshine State may well mean that wonderful Zella Layton. Her dolls of shells and other ocean articles have long been favorites with us, and our choice for current offering is her delicate, six inch shell bridesmaid, done almost completely of softly tinted and white shells which form a full length gown.

Her hat and dainty bouquet are of bridal posies (shell). Miss Flordida's face is sweetly painted, with smiling features. No. 190C, \$5.00.

From the remote hill country of Kentucky come those funny, feuding, cornhusk hill billies, the Hatfields and McCoys. A whole series of these famous mountaineers is made by Miss Ada Hurst, in 7 to 8 inch size, including Devil Anse, Hawg Floyd and Mammy Hatfield, as well as Rose Ann, Julie, Talbot and Pappy McCoy. Priced at just \$1.00 each, with a matching cornhusk ol' coon hound at 75¢ to complete the set. Order one or several of these ingeniously contrived, odd material dolls. Your friends will give with a Haw-haw-haw!

Yippee, No. 178, and Yippette, No. 178A, are cunning cowboy and girl made from clothespins in a Texas veterans hospital. Though Senator Johnson may claim Texas is a western state rather than southern, we'll stay strictly non-partisan in such political maneuvers and keep the Lone Star state in Dixie. These cleverly designed and neatly executed 5" dolls have painted boots, tall Stetsons, real suede jackets and skirts or chaps; holsters and silk kerchiefs are fancy trimmings. On a wooden base, 95¢ each.

#### OTHER "FLIRTY EYES." TOO

In the Q. and A. column of *Doll Talk* for May-June, 1959, we said the big bisque flirty-eyed dolls were made by Simon Halbig and perhaps K.R., too. Mrs. George L. Anderson of Texas writes that she has a 32 inch bisque flirty-eyed doll strung with wire and marked, "Armande Marseille." Any other entries?

# LATE ARRIVALS

No new "Late Arrivals" this time, except those wonderful Philippine dolls offered on page 1. We do have repeat shipments in on a number of your special old favorites though and now is the time to order while stocks are still available.

From bonnie Scotland come 8" Andrew, No. 265 and Agnes, No. 265A. Sturdy children of life-like latex, they are properly costumed in kilts, sporan, Glengerry cap and battle jacket for him, velvet waistcoat and tam for her. Made by the Chad Valley Royal Doll and Toy Makers of England, just \$5.00 each.



Far Korea, once a world battle ground, is watchfully peaceful once again and sends a gayly costumed "monk" dancer in graceful eleven inch size for your collection. Her flowing white robe and cowl covers a multicolored dress and blouse with shades of red, blue, green, yellow and gold. Sweetly featured silk face is whitened with makeup in the oriental theatrical tradition and she had a black wooden base. No. 552M, \$6.50.

One of our most popular European lines, year in and year out, are the Baitz dolls from Austria. Who could help but fall in love with their lovely child-like faces, delicately fashioned of skin-textured composition with pursed lips and quizzically side turned eyes. Size is perfect nine inches and costumes are neatly sewn. Andreas, No. 208, and Ava, No. 208A, are in Tyrolean costume with round peaked mountaineer hats and peasant costumes. Salle, No. 208S, of Salsburg, is equally cute but slightly more urban with full skirt, tight bodice and stiff black sailor hat with gilt band over her long blond braids. All three have nice felt hands, bendable limbs and, oh yes, the same price—\$6.00 each.

Libusa is from Czechoslovakia, the industrial hub of Eastern Europe. Despite the mechanization of her homeland, she still dearly loves the old style handiwork and her blue skirt and white blouse with big puff sleeves shows this feeling with a liberal addition of embroidered ribbons, trim and lace edgings. Her boots are knee length of black cloth and her well modeled head of composition is primly covered with a close fitting cap, em-

brodered with roses and fitting snugly down to her big yellow lace yoke collar. No. 203D, 8" Libusa, \$5.00.



From old China we can't offer a repeat shipment but we will break out and offer some of our carefully hoarded old warehouse stock on No. 406, Chinese Family of Five. Father and Mother are about 7 inches tall with son, daughter and baby all in correct proportion. Colorfully dressed in brightly contrasting shades, the dolls themselves are of smooth Chinese composition with bendable wire frames and built-in wire bases. One of our best buys, just \$5.95 per set.

#### OPPORTUNITY KNOCKED

Aw, shucks! 'Bet we missed another bargain. On the back of a sepia print of Boulevard Madeleine, circa 1890, there is (1) a

description of this street of flower markets, (2) a pep paragraph, decrying "poor, thin, weak blood" with Sarsaparilla suggested. To make **Doll Talk**, even though some seventy years too late, the sales suggestion (3)—"There is a family of five; a father, mother, two daughters and a son, all having plenty of changes of clothing, making nineteen pieces in all. They afford unlimited pleasure to the children, if properly handled, as they are made of strong paper. Sent to any address for one trademark from any of our preparations and 10c in stamps. C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass."

#### PENCIL MUST BE BLUE

The editor of **Doll Talk** sometimes does get justifiable complaints, one being that there are nuggets of information hidden in our depths, but how can one remember where or dig them out when needed. I dunno. But Mrs. B. R. Reap has a suggestion:

"Enjoyed this issue of **Doll Talk** because of it's smiling picture of Ruby Short McKim, and other reasons, too. The **Doll Primer** is a help; I have taken to blue-pencilling bits of information like that, so that when I want to find out something I've forgotten or never knew, I can quickly scan through all the issues, because of course I have every one. Sometimes somebody will ask me about a certain kind of doll and before I know it, I have all my reference books, magazines etc., all over the floor, and after I find what I started for, read on for hours about other kinds. I think I've taken this indirect route in learning about dolls more often than any."



# SPEAKING ANTTIQUES

To be frankly, let-down-our-hair honest with you, we are going to confess that this **Doll Talk**, including Antiques laid away, had to be all written and set up before National Federation Convention. Our printer, his very smart, proof-reading wife and their two young folks, son and daughter, were closing up shop for vacation trekking. A stuffer from our own mimeograph can list a lot of lovelies though and be right up to the minute on availables.

There are a few things in quantity though, that were hidden away for this column. They are chubby-cheeked baby Fulpers who get discussed in The Primer this issue, and a half dozen bisque-headed little girl urchins from Paris.

The "Left Bank" children have closed mouths, glass-eyed bisque heads of about two inch size and original old mohair wigs. They are a far cry from those exquisite and expensive French bisques! Composition bodies, jointed rather loosely at hips and shoulders bring La Bebe's height to scant eight inches over all; dressed only in tarleton shift, their legs are rather cute though, in painted-on strap slippers of mustard tan over short black socks. And for the bit of 'name dropping,' each common little head is incised S.F.B.J.-GO-and Paris! No. A129, \$12.50.

Once in a blue moon, these "finds" in quantity do turn up from some old store stock. The box of Fulper heads had been luckily cast in one of the prettier and

more desirable molds. Four and a half inches high over all this baby socket head is good  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches from forehead top to the bottom of his dumpling chin, 11 inches in circumference. Neck hole size, of a child or baby composition body, should be about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches across. It is really a dear, pug-nosed head with set or sleeping blue eyes, and two top "first teeth" above a red bisque tongue. Nicely feather-painted brows and fine lashes all around the eyes—no wig but a shaped buckram cap that would fit under a wig does come with each one. Fulper Head, No. A1F, \$10.00 each, postpaid, or three mailed at one time, No. A1F-3, \$25.00.

Another doll item, not a doll or a part thereof, but a doll picture keepsake. For any of y'all who are old enough to remember, well, grandmother's stereoptican, this will be quite a thrill. It is one of those old, heavy, dual print stereo cards, the one called "And She Had So Many Children;" dated copyright 1902.

The pictures show an adorable child with long curls, wearing a white frock, long black stockings and high button shoes. On the settee, surrounding her, you can easily distinguish the most popular dolls at the turn of the century. Most are beautiful bisques but there is still one nice old china head, a couple of prettily printed rag dollies, some small novelty types; we think one is a Chinaman, and a stuffed kitten.

Card size is the prescribed  $7 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, incised at one end as made by the Universal Art Co. of Philadelphia, U.S.A. At the opposite edge this balances out with

the addition of "Naperville, Ill.—London, Paris, Hamburg"—'Bet that'll give us belated respect for Naperville!

Stock of course is small, about fifty, and naturally no more apt to turn up—so, order this card as it is numbered 4613 at 50 cents.

### "PART TWO"—By V. Dawson

As promised in last **Doll Talk**, here is a continuation of those lively experiences recorded by Mrs. Virginia Dawson of Quebec, on her findings in Continental and English museums.

In Germany the best collection I saw was in Munich at the Stadt-museum Historisches, 1 St. Jakobsplatz. To me this collection was far superior to the Louvre, featuring older dolls and some most unusual china heads with beautiful, sensitive features. Touring through Germany, the place to look for dolls is at the Heimat-museum or Folks Museum, found even in the small towns. These house not the grand pictures and treasures, but the simple things of olden times; kitchens, furniture and toys. Nurenburg perhaps has the best known collection of doll houses, but I enjoyed more those displayed in Amsterdam. The collection is housed in the Rijks-museum and I enjoyed it more than the Nurenburg collection because it is better lighted and displayed. They had a push-around ladder one could climb to see into the upper stories. High in one house an evil-looking doll nurse was standing by a curtained bed in which lay another doll under a mountainous feather quilt. The nurse held a baby which had apparently been born with a hat on!

However, both German and Dutch doll houses give a marvelous picture of 17th Century housekeeping. It is a revelation to peer into these tiny over-stuffed rooms and see a day in the lives of middle-class European people of three hundred years ago; all the heavy furniture, cupboards bulging with household linen, kitchens a welter of skillets, pots, wooden bowls, tubs; and always a hungry toy cat prowling among the baskets on the floor. The dolls in these houses are not flopped on sofas smiling gently as in English ones. They are grim-faced, swarthy wax people standing by the tubs in the laundry or by open stoves surrounded by a discouraging array of spits and pots!

In London there are a few dolls to be found in Kensington Palace, and also a few fine ones at Victoria and Albert Museum, but the bulk of the dolls and doll houses have been taken to Bethnel Green Museum, Cambridge Heath E. 2. For serious collectors, it is valuable if they write ahead to Museum Keepers to learn what the possibilities are of seeing dolls in storage as so many of them are. For instance, here is a paragraph from a letter I received from Mr. M. R. Holmes, assistant Keeper of the London Museum, Kensington Palace, London. . . . "a good many of Queen Victoria's dolls are on exhibition in our Royal Room close to the doll's house which was made for Her late Majesty Queen Mary who spent her childhood in this Palace. Perhaps when you are in London again, you will let me know when you can find time to see at least our exhibited specimens. I will see what can be done about

getting out some of our stored specimens though I cannot say to what extent this will be practicable since a good deal of our stored material is not in fact housed in this building at all." This disappointing phrase 'stored material' is repeated in a great many letters about old dolls which I have received.

English doll houses are in a class by themselves. The rooms are airier and call up one's childish desire to steal a hand into a bedroom, pluck a charming doll posed at her vanity table and trundle her down the stairs to sit beside her husband who is looking a bit bored in the drawing room with that prissy looking brunette. I consider the Dutch and German doll houses very interesting and educational, but the English ones haunt me. I look away and then back. Who moved? You can smile that demure Victorian smile, my dear, but I saw you!"

## **DO YOU KNOW?**

"Schultz Marke" was often used with the tortoise trade mark that identified the dolls and toys of Rheinische Gummi und Celluloid Fabric, leading German manufacturers. It simply means "Protected Trademark."

# SOLIDARITY

Along with an order for fifteen doll stands from Mrs. E. A. Scarce was this revealing notation of family understanding and love:—"My dear little family collected money between them, so some of my dolls could stand once more."

## **RESCUE FOR DERELICTS**

Like the old country doctors who brag that they've never lost a father, Genevieve Angione explains for us how she has never lost a head—a DOLL head, that is. Being a bit Irish in descent, there's a gay imagination, a venturing and Gaelic independence that shines through in experimenting.

"We make figurines from odd doll heads by routing out the tops of nice sofa legs and boring through them. The head fits into the top routing; short, heavy rubber bands go down the hole and are held in the bottom routing by a round wire ring too big for the hole. Then with felt pasted to the bottom they can go on our nicest cherry tables and do no harm."



Mrs. A. even took a little picture of a couple of these cabinet pieces. "The china head," she explained, "is mounted on a soft pine board with a thick piece of wood, almost to the top of her head, screwed in place by a countersunk hole in the bottom. The lace collar is tied with a pink bow of exactly cheek color. The bisque girl is held in place with her own head plug

and hook and a rubber loop down through a hole bored through the sofa leg."

'S and idea! And who of us, seeking old dolls, do not betimes come upon the broken remains of what was once an exquisite head? Such finds should be inexpensive in comparison to perfect ones, but maybe well worth saving.

P.S. "A socket hole at the top of a nice composition body had been squashed down so the bisque head sank in like a hunch backed misfortunate. Prefab neck liners were too small for the wrecking job done on her, so I made a neck hole out of two composition egg box sections, which gave me overlapping wings to overlap the hole. She's going to be fine, thank you!"

Doctor G.A.

## SCHOOL'S OUT!

Let's repeat that it is folk of culture, imagination, assurance, who have the gumption to collect dolls. Carolyn Keyt, who begins with an apology for having 'nary a Kimport Doll, explains that their upset condition is due to problems being solved, one by one, as they convert an old school house into a new home.

"I just can't add one more item to move about until we are finished. **Doll Talk** comes, and I sit among the piled up furniture, regardless of pressing duties, until I have read it from cover to cover. Then I go about my work with renewed vigor knowing that the sooner the house is finished, the sooner I can begin to add to my somewhat meager collection."



Q. Do you have little cards and holders for labeling dolls in a cabinet, or would it be better to have a number on each one and then the pertinent information more or less in the form of a catalogue to which any one interested could refer?

A. An information card right with each doll is definitely like the proverbial "Bird in Hand." Little stiff cardboard oblongs either typed or hand lettered may be made to stand (1) when made into tent-like fold with the back cut just a shade more shallow, or, (2) on heavier weight card by sticking the point of a pin so the angle is correct to make the pin proper serve as an easel back.

## FORWARD, TURN FORWARD—

Kay McGoogan (sounds cute, doesn't she) writes for a first time to Kimport—"I read the article in **Christian Science Monitor** about your dolls. For a number of years I have been collecting and have foreign, an apple-head doll as well as some domestic dolls. I am fourteen years old and will be entering the ninth grade in September."

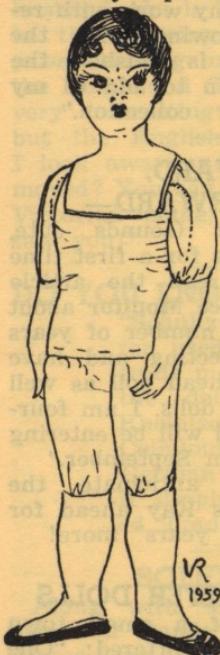
Naturally, we anticipate the friendship of Miss Kay ahead for oh, "a number of years" more!

## WE STILL PREFER DOLLS

A Want Ad of a small town newspaper recently offered: "One set of good false teeth, 19th century; 2 used casket handles; some of the nicest dolls we have ever had; doll furniture, beds, chests, dressers."

## FRECKLES

Running a gamut of present day ceramics, one finds everything from blunt shapes, chalky finishes and unuseable tints to—well, to such masterpieces of perfection that they will be sought and bought a hundred years from now. The Humpty Dumpty Doll Hospital first set these modern high standards in modeling and finish, covering china, pink and white, as well as parian in white and the pink tint bisques. Martha Thompson, an artist who originates her own exquisite creations, is undoubtedly tops in the field as yet.



those freckles, shapely limbs and pliable cotton body, all in the manner of early china heads, although we'd call this gal bisque. The initials of her designer, Viola Roths-

There is an imposing group in between the early days of H.D.D.H. and now though, who have made and are making good replicas and originals; each one could be a success story in itself.

All of this, and still, "Who is Freckles?" Freckles is one of the many submitted dolls but few chosen by Kimport to offer as a collector item. She's a teenager with rich brown hair and eyes, lovely warm complexion, plus, shapely limbs and body, all in the manchina heads, although gal bisque. The designer, Viola Roths-

child, and the date 1959, are incised on her shoulders.

Mrs. R. has been pleasant to work with; of course accidents and surprises happen in any non-professional kiln, but she keeps cheery—for instance:

"I have really worked hard on those heads—even to polishing them with a soft flannel cloth so they are satin smooth. At the same time I was doing the dolls, my husband was building a workshop and ever so often, he'd yell, 'Vi, come here a minute.' Like as not, I'd end up on the roof holding boards or tar paper! But it is almost finished and will be wonderful to get all of my dolls, ceramics, sewing, etc., out of the house."

In closing, 'hope you like to sew.  
Statistics are: height 12 inches.  
Order No. 174, and price, undressed,  
**\$12.50.**

**"THE JUMEAU DOLL STORY"  
AVAILABLE**

The first book by Mrs. Nina Davies, previously reviewed in **Doll Talk**, called, "The Jumeau Doll Story," is still available from Kimport. Price, postpaid, \$4.50.

# DO YOU KNOW?

About 1880 a special rag baby doll was made in London. Clara Hallard Fawcett quotes Olive Thorne as writing in *St. Nicholas*. "The head is of wax, covered with very thin muslin, which gives it a peculiarly soft and babyish look, and makes it strong enough for a live baby to play with."

**DOLL TALK**

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

**KIMPORT DOLLS**

Independence, Mo.

**CLASSICS OF THE DOLL WORLD**

By Nina S. Davies

The newest book to join the distinguished library on the fascinating subject of dolls is the above title. Mrs. Davies of New Orleans, is widely known as a collector of rare dolls, and in 1957 published "The Jumeau Doll Story," still available at \$4.50 postpaid. In her present book, "Classics of the Doll World," she has drawn on her extensive knowledge of the history of dolls, and has described and pictured choice selections from her own collection.

The book itself is beautifully done. Its 132 pages, 7x10, are heavy enamel finish on which the 33 full page pictures reproduce perfectly. The type is large and easily read, and the volume is bound in cheerful red buckram, though the color is hidden by a most attractive jacket, picturing Mary of Burgundy.

The text is written in informative style, letting the various dolls picture their own era. It's much like going through a classic museum with extended notes under each

portrait and oh, so much more comfortable on one's feet than the fatiguing travels of a tourist!

A list of the dolls shown give you an idea of the wide range of the book. They are:

- Mary of Burgundy
  - A Shrine Doll
  - Another Shrine Doll
  - Italian Portrait Doll
  - French Swaddling Doll
  - Austrian Swaddling Doll
  - Jean Qui Peure et Jean Qui Rit
  - Masked Venetian Doll
  - Wooden Fashion Dolls
  - Italian Creche Dolls
  - Italian Character Doll
  - Automatic Musical Doll
  - Italian Terra-Cotta Doll
  - A Court Doll
  - Pedlar Doll
  - Fortune-Telling Doll
  - Shell Dolls
  - A Political Doll
  - A Composition Doll
  - A Napoleon Bonaparte Doll
  - Nun Dolls
  - Queen Anne Dolls
  - An Old China Doll
  - Italian Sleeping-eyed Doll
  - Tea Cosie Doll
  - Grodner Tal Doll
  - A Trick Doll
  - A Doll of Normandy
  - Fashion Dolls
  - A Doll of the Renaissance
  - Parian Man Doll
  - Doll of Brittany
  - Doctor's or Medical Dolls
- You may order the book from Kimport, postpaid, at \$10.00.

**DO YOU KNOW?**

That foreign antique dolls must be authentically dated prior to 1830 to come in duty free?

~~start~~ **CORRESPONDENCE** ~~end~~

**CLIPPINGS**

"Please keep the back page Doll Primer coming. It is so informative. I have made a card listing these pages by number so I can find them easily for reference."

—Leone Bemis, Oregon

"I am very pleased with the china doll. I've wanted one to dress like my grandmother on her wedding day and 'Evangeline,' as I've named her, is perfect. My grandmother, Evangeline, was married during the 'Gay Nineties' and she can still remember a lot about her silver-gray taffeta wedding dress, although she no longer has it. Grandmother was a blue-eyed blond and I imagine she looked a good deal like the doll on her wedding day."

—Mrs. Henry E. Peach Jr., Mass.

"I took my 'International Family' to the office where I am employed and exhibited them. They were greatly admired by all."

—Leonoir E. McKee, Ill.

"I am the kind of collector who is not in one category strictly, such as foreign dolls, only, or antiques only, etc. but get just exactly what I like. My association in doing business with you is very satisfactory, and I am looking forward to many future transactions. Any dolls that are foreign ones I want authentic, not costume ones or done by some other country other than the one it is supposed to be representing. Therefore, my reason for getting my dolls from you."

—Doris King, Calif.

"Dolls have been just as important to my living as books, hand-work, and any or all of my other hobbies. So I just have to have **Doll Talk**—like the newspapers, or the radio, or the lights!"

—Vivian Sale, Wash.

"Busy, busy, busy! My listeners know that not only do they get dolls but soapbox oratory about the need for brotherhood with every show, but they must love it as they always come back for more!" —Ethel Averbach, Calif.

### A GOOD 5 CENT CIGAR

Wasn't it a wise vice-president from Indiana who became famous for the statesmanlike pronouncement: "What this country needs, is a good five cent cigar."

An important customer of Kimport was trying to help a man from her office find a "Big Baby Doll," evidently to put in an old family cradle. Just the doll was found and offered for \$50.00. "Wouldn't pay \$50.00 for any doll," says the man, evidently thinking back to the good old days when a dollar had at least 100 cents!

### TIME TESTING

Why should we doubt the durability of Wax? It is known that skilled craftsmen of the middle ages developed the art of making wax dolls and images. Some have survived the centuries.

### WHO COLLECTS FOR WHOM?

Some grandmothers buy dolls for their daughters to save for granddaughters. Who is the collector?

## IMPRESSIONS OF THE 10th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE FEDERATION OF DOLL CLUBS, INC.

Attending the annual national convention of one's club, or profession or business is about the pleasantest experience in the year. It has the lure of distant places, the reunion with friends previously known, or new acquaintances to make, the whirl of entertainment, the tired feet and enough ideas to mull over until next time!

This year, the Heirloom Doll Club of Kansas City was hostess and they were as flustered and as eager and as efficient as American women can be. Problems that loomed large in advance, leveled out, and from all reports a grand time was had by all!

Kimport, as usual, in anything pertaining to dolls, stood by to help. It was a pleasure, advertising in the program, writing special articles, and being a half-way house for the advance tourists on their route in. It was flattering, if a bit frightening, to be chosen as a mecca on the tour, because 300 visitors anxious for a peek at the dolls, with space limited and time short was a problem. But folks have a friendly way of accommodating themselves to the circumstances and their jolly fellowship plus a glance at some doll treasures, a cookie or a spot of coffee, seemed to make it a happy occasion.

As editor of **Doll Talk**, it's quite one thing to write quietly away at the familiar desk, and another to be guest speaker at the closing banquet. The subject was easy—"Tangents," as there are so many facets to doll collecting. The scene was

inspiring with beautifully decorated tables and lovely gowned guests in friendly circles. The head table was radiant with good humor at the close of such a successful convention, and attention to the speaker and mutual affection made the task easier. It again demonstrated that people are the important thing in any hobby—even dolls—and that our members are the elite of them all!

Ruby Short McKim

## WOULD ANOTHER TEA PARTY HELP?

Beatrice E. Griffiths of Massachusetts had the same emotions about April 15 that the rest of us had, so with tongue in cheek she wrote: "If 'Taxachusetts' levies very many more taxes on us, we will all be on welfare, and then they will have to support us!" "Oh, well, I think we appreciate our purchases more when we have to save and sacrifice for them."

My brother found an old Schoenhut piano in a trash can at the college where he is and brought it home. I pulled it out of the carton and took a look; it was all apart, the paper picture on panel in fine pieces, but I started putting it together on my kitchen counter, not knowing what it was, like a jigsaw puzzle, and lo and behold, the 'Schoenhut' name appeared and then I sat up and took notice. Believe me, it was a job to put it together, but we did and restained it, painted the keys, and my brother made a bench to go with it, and we are very proud of our reproduction. It plays beautifully. So, one never knows where he will get a 'find'."

## DOLL PRIMER: THE BRIEF CAREER OF FULPER DOLL HEADS

If it were not for an excellent illustrated article by Ruth Ricker in the July 1956 number of **Spinning Wheel Magazine**, and an authoritative statement in the 1940 Manual of the Doll Collectors of America, Inc., we would have practically no documentation on the Fulper doll heads. Fulper dolls made a brief appearance on the American doll stage, 1918-1921, filled a war-time need, then disappeared, except as a collector item.

Germany had long been the major supplier of bisque doll heads, carrying on a flourishing export business with America until World War I. Then the process of "beating swords into ploughshares" was reversed and such non-war culture items as dolls gave way to battle trappings. Hatred of the "Huns," so easily whipped up, would have caused buyers to reject anything German, even though it came like English tea, tax free by the shipload. Over night, little girls were deprived of new dollies, and New York toy importers were in a slump.

As always, American ingenuity came to the front, one example being the Fulper Pottery Company of Flemington, New Jersey, which already had a big plant making pottery and tableware. To manufacture those popular bisque headed play babies, all that was needed were doll models and the proper clays. The molds of Armand-Marseille, German manufacturers, were available, and Florida has a good china clay, feldspar and flint, so by 1918 the Fulper doll head, proudly stamped "Made in U.S.A." was on the market.

The clay may not have been quite as good or the finish as smooth as the better German bisque dolls, but there was an immediate demand for the new product. Fulper could produce 1000 eyeless and wigless heads a day; the manufacturers took them from there. Horsman Co., New York, was the biggest user but other companies were supplied as well. Styles ranged from babies to small girls and boys, with even young ladies featured doll heads. Special head styles in many sizes were supplied to the manufacturers on demand. Some very large heads, even life size, were made for dolls to display children's clothes in smart shops. The trademark Fulper was incised vertically at the back of the head and the words below, "Made in the U.S.A."

Soon after the close of the war, you might know that the Germans were sending dolls again. With cheaper labor they could sell a complete doll head with sleeping eyes, wig and maybe eyelashes, for less than it cost in our country for just fitting a pair of eyes into a Fulper casting. After 1920, Fulper did not manufacture any new models and by 1921 they entirely discontinued what was, at most, a sideline with them. The rapid calculator would figure that a thousand dolls a day for three years would blanket the earth! Doubtless their maximum output was brief; bisque is fairly fragile and tiny doll mothers are apt to be more loving than careful. Anyway, Fulper heads today are not as plentiful as blackberries. Garner them while you may!

---

**KIMPORT DOLLS,**

P. O. BOX 495  
INDEPENDENCE, MO.